GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1716
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2017
Registration of Workers
Venugopal Shri K. C.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce online registration facilities for Indian citizens working abroad, particularly in Gulf region and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal in this regard and if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government is ready to provide health insurance to those people who are working abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) No, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government nor has the Government received any such proposal. However, the data of the Indian workers, holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) category passport, emigrating for employment purpose to any of the 18 notified ECR countries is captured in a digital system introduced by the Ministry since 2014, called e-Migrate system. e-Migrate provides the Ministry a comprehensive, online database of emigrants. The System makes the emigration process faster, transparent and allows online authentication/ verification of the emigrants, foreign employers and registered recruiting agents.

(c) & (d) There is already a mandatory Insurance and medical cover under Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) for all Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holding Indian workers emigrating with Emigration Clearance to 18 notified ECR countries for overseas employment. On 12.07.2017 the Scheme has been amended to extend the coverage and make it more simple for claim settlement. Some of the salient features and benefits under the PBBY 2017 are as under:

(i) Maximum sum for which insured under the Scheme is Rs.10.00 lakhs in the event of accidental death or permanent disability leading to loss of employment while in employment abroad, irrespective of change of employer or location of insured person (country of employment, India or third country).

(ii) Certification of accidental death or permanent disability by Indian Missions and Posts abroad shall be accepted by the insurance companies. Certification will be issued by concerned Protector of Emigrants (PoE), if the accidental death or permanent disability happens in India.

(iii) Medical insurance cover including injuries / sickness / ailment / diseases enhanced from Rs.75,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- (up to Rs. 50,000 per hospitalization)

(iv) Repatriation cover for medically unfit/premature termination of employment: Actual one-way economy class air fare to the nearest international airport in India.

(v) Family Hospitalization in India is Rs. 50,000/-

(vi) Maternity benefit to women emigrants enhanced from Rs.25,000/-to Rs. 35,000/-

(vii) Return economy class air fare to the nearest international airport attendant in case of emigrant's accidental death or permanent disability.

(viii) Legal expenses on litigation related to emigrant's overseas employment enhanced from Rs.30,000/- to Rs. 45,000/-

(ix) Provision for On-line renewal of PBBY policy introduced.